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# MARINE SHELLS
# OF
# SOUTH AFRICA.

With the Author's compliments

# MARINE SHELLS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

By G. B. SOWERBY, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

[*Reprinted from the Journal of Conchology*].

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By G. B. SOWERBY, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

(Read before the Conchological Society, November 3rd, 1893).

The following species have been brought to my notice since the publication of my work with the above title in 1892.

The references are not always to original descriptions, but to figures in well-known works.

**Murex ramosus** Linn.—Sow., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iv., pl. 387, fig. 69. Natal.

**Tritonidea subrubiginosa.** — Smith, 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1879, p. 200, pl. 20, fig. 40. Natal (Burnup).

**Pleurotoma cingulifera** Lamk.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. i., *Pleurotoma*, fig. 1. A young shell from Knysna.

**Mangilia cerea** (?) Carpenter.—A small shell bearing a very close resemblance to this species has been submitted to me by Langley Kitching, Esq, from near Cape Town.

**Triton gemmatus.**—Reeve, 'Conch, Icon.,' vol. ii., *Triton*, pl. 15, fig. 60. Natal.

**Triton tuberosus** Lamk.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. ii., *Triton*, pl. 1, fig. 1. Natal.

**Triton gallinago.**—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. ii., *Triton*, pl. 2, fig. 3. Natal.

**Triton monilifer.**—Adams & Reeve, 'Voyage, *Samarang*,' pl. 10, fig. 18. Natal.

**Triton (Persona) anus** Lamk.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. ii., *Triton*, pl. 12, fig. 44. Natal.

**Nassa algida.**—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. viii., *Nassa*, pl. 22, fig. 145. Natal.

**Bullia pustulosa** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa acuminata, solidiuscula, luteo-albida; spira acute turrita, ad apicem obtusiuscula; anfractus 6 primi (2) laeves, sequentes granulati, spiraliter sulcati, longitudinaliter plicati, sutura*

*anguste canaliculata divisi; anfractus ultimus spiram paulo superans, leviter inflatus; apertura latiuscula; columella leviter incurva, callosa.*

*Long. 19, diam. maj. 9 millim.*

*Hab. Natal, Durban.*

A very distinct species which may be at once recognized by its granular sculpture.

**Oliva ispidula** Linn.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iv., p. 21, pl. 343, fig. 248.

**Fasciolaria trapezium** Linn.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. v., pl. 426, fig. 22. Natal.

**Latirus abnormis** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa elongato-fusiformis, crassa, utrinque acuminata, umbilicata, castanea; spira turrita, acuta, sutura irregularis; anfractus 6-7, leviter convexi, nodis conspicuis rotundatis armati; spiraliter sub-obsolete lirati; anfractus ultimus superne leviter concavus, obtuse bi-angulatus, ad angulum superum valde nodosus, ad angulum inferum nodis lævigatis munitus, inferne leviter concavus, in cauda breviuscula desinens; apertura oblonga; columella rectiuscula, albo-callosa, glabra, haud plicata; canalis latiusculus, mediocriter longus.*

*Long. 57, diam. maj. 23 millim.*

*Hab. Natal.*

This species, though evidently a *Latirus*, shows no signs of the columellar folds supposed to be characteristic of that genus. In this respect, however, it does not stand alone, the same being observed with regard to *L. gibbulus* Gmel., and the species from the Cape de Verde Islands, to which I recently gave the name of *L. maximus* ('The Conchologist,' 1893, vol. ii., p. 139, pl. 1, fig. 5).

**Voluta festiva** Lamk.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. i., pl. 52, figs. 79, 80. A young specimen of this rare species was recently found on the Natal coast by Mrs. Trotter.

**Mitra literata** Lamk.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iv., pl. 372, fig. 436. Natal.

**Mitra limbifera** Lamk.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iv., pl. 366, fig. 261. Natal.

**Marginella rufula** Gaskoin (MSS.).—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' sp. 149. Green Point, Cape of Good Hope.

**Marginella perminima** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa minuta, oblongo-ovalis, albida, postice rotundata, antice leviter attenuata; spira immersa; apertura angusta; columella triplicata; labrum crassiusculum.*

*Long.* 1½, *lat.* ¾ *millim.*

*Hab. South Africa* (*Captain Turton*).

A minute species with immersed spire, allied to *M. minima* Guilding, but more cylindrical in form.

**Columbella kitchingi** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa breviuscula, crassa, imperforata, albida, fusco-bifasciata; spira acutiuscula; anfractus 5, convexi, sutura anguste canaliculata sejuncti, longitudinaliter costati, costis circ. 8, rotundatis; anfractus ultimus leviter inflatus, infra medium contractus; apertura auriformis; labrum arcuatum, intus valde quadriplicatum; columella rectiuscula, lævis.*

*Long. 6, maj. diam. 3 millim.*

*Hab. Green Point, Cape of Good Hope.*

This species somewhat resembles *C. cerealis*, but it has plain-brown bands in place of the zig-zag markings, and is notably distinguished by the dentiform plicæ in the mouth. The type-specimen was found in the above locality by Langley Kitching, Esq., after whom I have pleasure in naming it. There are also specimens in the British Museum.

**Columbella (Mitrella) pyramidalis** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa angusta, crassiuscula, lævis, lutea, fusco sparsim strigata; spira elongata, acuta; anfractus 8, plani, lævis, sutura linearis; anfractus ultimus infra medium obtuse angulatus; apertura latiuscula, utrinque attenuata; columella incurva, truncata; canalis brevissimus.*

*Long. 11, diam. maj. 3 millim.*

*Hab. Port Elizabeth.*

A smooth shell with a very long spire.

**Cassis glauca** Linn.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. v., *Cassis*, pl. 12, fig. 33. Natal.

**Pyrula ficus** Linn.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iv., pl. 423. fig. 4 (as *Ficula* f.). Natal.

**Natica quekettii** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa globosa, mediocriter umbilicata, crassiuscula, undique fusco multipunctata, maculis grandibus fuscis irregulariter picta; spira brevissima, anfractus 4, lævis, convexi, sutura profundiuscula sejuncti; anfractus ultimus inflatus, rotundatus; umbilicus profundus sub-circularis, saturate fusco marginatus; apertura semi-circularis; columella obliqua, vix curvata.*

*Long. 7, maj. diam. 8 millim.*

*Hab. Natal.*

A small species somewhat resembling *N. imperforata*, but distinctly perforate. It differs in form from *N. forata*, and the umbilicus is smaller.

**Natica sebæ.**—Souleyet, 'Voyage de la Bonite,' pl. 35, figs. 6, 7; 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. v., pl. 457, fig. 79. Natal.

**Natica tæniata** Menke = **N. ala-papilionis** Chemn.—Sow., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. v., pl. 457, pl. 46. Natal.

**Scalaria simplex** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa elongato-pyramidata, imperforata, alba, nitida; anfractus 6, rotundati, sutura profunda sejuncti; costis leviter obliquis 9–10, æqualibus, crassiusculis, simplicibus, vix angulatis; apertura fere circularis, peristoma crassiusculo.*

*Long. 8, maj. diam. 4·5 millim.*

*Hab. Natal.*

A small *Scalaria* with no prominent distinguishing characters, but seemingly different from any hitherto described.

**Aclis unilineata** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa elongata, angusta, tenuis, alba; spira turrita; anfractus 8, planato-convexi, longitudinaliter minutissime densissime plicati, linea unica fusca spiraliter cincti; sutura impressa, lira angusta insecta; anfractus ultimus breviusculus vix inflatus, ad basin rotundatus, lævissime productus; apertura ovata; columella tenuissima, leviter incurvata, haud plicata, peristoma simplex.*

*Long. 5, maj. diam. 1¼ millim.*

*Hab. Port Elizabeth.*

A narrow little white shell with a brown spiral line about the middle of the whorls. From the form of the mouth and columella it appears to be an *Actis*, though in sculpture it is more like a *Turbonilla*.

**Solarium perspectivum** Linn.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 253, fig. 36. Natal. A small specimen.

**Solarium (Philippia) hybridum** Linn.—'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 253, fig. 42. St. John's (Captain Turton).

**Solarium dorsuosum** Hinds.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 254, figs. 73–74. Natal. St. John's (Captain Turton). This species is found in the Persian Gulf and in Japan.

**Cerithium crassilabrum** Krauss.—Sud., 'Afr. Moll.,' pl. vi., fig. 10. Natal.

**Pyrazus palustris** Brug.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. ii., pl. 185, fig. 261. Natal.

**Turbo (Pachypoma) taylorianus** Smith, Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1880, pl. 48, fig. 9, p. 483. Port Elizabeth.

**Turbo (Collonia) pillula** Dunker.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. v., pl. 505, fig. 160. St. John's (Captain Turton).

**Gibbula fucata** Gould, 'Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H.,' p. 8, p. 20. Simon's Bay (Captain Turton). A prettily-marked rather compressed variety was found by Langley Kitching, Esq., at Green Point, near Cape Town.

**Gibbula incincta** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa conica, obtusiuscula, umbilicata, aurantio-fusca, et viridescente, fasciis angustis albidis, maculis angulatis fuscis articulatis picta; anfractus 5 convexo declives, fere læves, oblique sub-obsolete sulcati, lira rotundata marginati; basis leviter convexa, oblique plicata, spiraliter subtilissime striata; umbilicus late et profunde excavatus, albus, carina obtusiuscula marginatus; apertura oblique sub-quadrata; columella tenuis, obliqua, levissime reflexa; peristoma simplex.*

*Alt. 6, maj. lat. 6 millim.*

*Hab. Port Elizabeth.*

A simple conical shell with an obtusely-keeled margin. It somewhat resembles *G. capensis*, but is much more elevately conical.

**Clanculus kraussi** Philippi, 'Conch. Cab.,' p. 82, pl. 14, fig. 14. Natal.

**Fissurella mutabilis** Sowb. var. **sagillata** Reeve.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 239, fig. 83.

**Fissurella similis** Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 241, fig. 143, p. 143. Durban (Captain Turton).

**Macrochisma compressa** A. Adams. — Sowerby, 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., pl. 244, fig. 218. Captain Turton.

**Chiton lyratus** Sowb., 'Conch. Illust.,' fig. 15. Port Elizabeth.

**Cylindrobulla sculpta** G. & H. Neville,' Journ. Asiatic Soc.,' Pt. 2, No. 2, 1869, p. 68, pl. 13, fig. 3.

**Volvatella laguncula** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa ovato-cylindracea, membranacea, involuta, postice abrupte contracta, breviter producta, antice rotundata; apertura antice late ovata, postice sinuosa, angustissima, labro dextro utrinque desinente, in medio inflexo, sinistro leviter reflexo.*

*Long. 6, diam. 3½ millim.*

*Hab. Port Elizabeth.*

Unfortunately I have only the shell of this species, so that it is impossible with certainty to establish its generic position; the form of the shell, however, leaves little room for doubt that it is a true *Volvatella*. Compared with *V. cumingii* it is much smaller, less abruptly truncated and produced posteriorly, and proportionately wider anteriorly; it is also less cylindrical in form than *V. cincta* of Neville, and shows no sign of the transverse bands characteristic of that species.

## PELECYPODA.

**Basterotia obtusa** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa æquivalvis, inæquilateralis, quadrato-subovata, leviter inflata, antice abbreviata, rotunde truncata, postice obtuse angulata, oblique producta, sordida, concentrice dense striata. Umbones approximati, leviter prominentes. Cardo in utraque valva dentem unicum valde productum, leviter excurvatum, postice lamina abbrevitata crassiuscula angulato-elevata munitus. Impressiones musculares vix perspicua.*

*Antero-post. 12, umbono-marg. 8 millim.*

*Hab. Durban.*

The genus *Basterotia* Mayer in Hörnes ('Die Fossilen Mollusken des Terticer-Beckens von Wein,' vol. iv., p. 40, pl. 3, fig. 11 a–g, 1859) was founded on a fossil species *B. corbuloides* Mayer. The recent type is *Corbula quadrata* Hinds ('Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1843), for which Recluz proposed the generic name of *Eucharis* ('Journal de Conchyliologie,' vol. i., p. 168, 1850); name pre-occupied by Latreille in 1804. The new species *Basterotia obtusa* resembles *B. corbuloides* in form, but instead of a keel from the apex to the posterior margin, it has only a very obtuse rounded angle.

**Pandora dissimilis** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa fere æquivalvis, inæquilateralis, oblonga compressa, postice latior, antice angustior, utrinque obtuse subangulata; extus sordida, concentrice irregulariter rugata. Margo dorsalis acutus; anticus curtus leviter declivis; posticus longus rectiusculus; lunula nulla. Margo ventralis leviter flexuosus. Valvis utrinque leviter hiantis. Umbones acuti. Cardo lira longa crassiuscula, oblique descendens, ligamentum ferente; in valva dextra dente unicus elevatus claviformis instructus. Pagina interna margaritacea iridescens; impressiones musculares duæ subcirculares.*

*Antero-post. 45, umbono-marg. 25 millim.*

*Hab. Sea Point, Cape Town.*

After some hesitation I have decided to place this remarkable species in the genus *Pandora*. It differs very

much from the typical forms, and chiefly in the equality of the valves. The hinge, however, is that of a *Pandora*, although the club-shaped tooth is much more prominent than in any other species with which I am acquainted. The oblique ridge holding the ligament is similar to that of *P. claviculata* Carpenter.

**Raeta pellicula** Deshayes.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Mactra*, pl. 21, fig. 124. A single valve from Durban.

**Semele cordiformis** Chemnitz. — Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Amphidesma*, pl. 5, fig. 30. Natal.

**Psammobia burnupi** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa oblonga, æquivalis, inæquilateralis, planulata, antice rotundata, postice truncata, ubique concentrice striata, luteo-fusco tincta, fasciis fuscis irregulariter notata, lineis fuscis minutis divergentibus veniformibus picta; umbones acuti, haud prominentes; margo dorsalis anticus longus, leviter curvatus; anticus curtus leviter declivis, obtuse angulatus; margo ventralis rectiusculus anticus rotundatus, posticus obtuse angulatus; ligamentum externum, mediocriter longum; cardo normalis; pagina interna saturate purpurea.*

*Antero-post. 28, umbono-marg. 14 millim.*

*Hab. Natal (Burnup).*

*Var. β—sordide lutea, obscure radiata; pagina interna albida pallide luteo-fusco tincta.*

**Tellina dispar** Conrad.—Sowb.,'Thes. Conch.,' vol. i., p. 306, pl. 59, fig. 108. Natal.

**Tellina virgata** Linn.—Sowb, 'Thes. Conch., vol. i., p. 228, pl. 63, fig. 212. Natal.

**Tellina rastellum** Hanley.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. i., p. 225, pl. 64, fig. 231. Natal.

**Tellina (Macoma) candidata** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa sub-oblique ovalis, æquivalvis, inæquilateralis, leviter inflata, alba, glabra, nitens. Umbones acutiusculi, leviter prominentes, conjuncti. Margo dorsalis utrinque declivis; anticus longiusculus; posticus brevior, majis declivis. Margo ventralis leviter arcuatus. Latus anticum rotundatum; posticum obtuse biangulatum.*

*Antero-post. 16, umbono-marg. 12 millim.*

*Hab. Durban.*

A very simple white shell.

**Strigillia trotteriana** Sowerby, n. sp.

*Testa rotunde subovata, solidiuscula, æquivalvis, subæquilateralis, convexiuscula, nitida, alba, luteo tincta, prope umbones lutea, varie et conspicue striata; striis anticis concentricis sub-remotis; medianis obliquis subradiantibus, cum striis anticis angulum deflectum formantibus: posticis sub-concentricis, creberrimis, leviter undulatis. Margo dorsalis utrinque declivis; anticus brevis, rotundatus, leviter flexuosus; posticus longior, rectiusculus. Cardo normalis. Pagina interna lutea.*

*Antero-post. 12, umbono-marg. 10 millim.*

The striæ are not so close as in *S. carnaria*; those on the anterior side (nearly half the valve) are nearly concentric, and form an angle with the oblique striæ which cover the middle portion to the posterior angle, behind which they are again concentric and much closer. This very interesting species was found at Durban by Mrs. Trotter.

**Donax nitidus** Deshayes.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. iii., p. 314, pl. 282, fig. 75. Natal (Burnup). The specimens of this species in the British Museum are from E. Australia.

**Donax lubricus** Hanley.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Donax*, pl. 7, fig. 46.

**Donax æmulus** Smith, 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' 1877, p. 271, pl. 75, figs. 23–25. Durban (Captain Turton).

**Mactra æquisulcata** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa sub-trigona, æquivalvis, fere æquilateralis, solidiuscula, leviter inflata, pallide lutescente-cornea, utrinque concentrice dense sulcata; umbones obtusiusculi, incurvati, purpureo tincti; margo dorsalis utrinque declivis, area latiuscula, planato-convexa, lunula vix conspicua; margo ventralis arcuatus; cardo normalis; pagina interna polita, albida, pallide purpureo-griseo fasciatim tincta.*

*Antero-post. 58, umbono-marg. 48 millim.*

*Hab. Natal (Burnup).*

I know of no species bearing a very close comparison with this. It is of much the same texture as *M. semisulcata* Desh., but higher and much more nearly æquilateral; it is, moreover, equally sulcated at both ends, the sulci, excepting near the umbones, crossing the valves.

**Donax burnupi** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa elongata, angusta, leviter flexuosa, pallide fulva, obscure fusco radiata, polita; area postica sulcata, sulcis numerosis profundis oblique sub-verticalis. Margo dorsalis anticus longus, rectiusculus, leviter declivis, posticus brevis, rotundatus. Cardo normalis. Pagina interna albida, utrinque violaceo tincta.*

*Antero-post. 26, umbono-marg. 12 millim.*

*Hab. Natal (Burnup).*

At first sight this shell resembles the European *D. politus*, but it is distinguished by the remarkable posterior sulci.

**Cytherea (Caryatis) manillæ** Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. ii., p. 634, pl. 136, figs. 180–181. Natal (a single valve).

**Cytherea (Meretrix) zonaria** Lamarck. — Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. ii., p. 620, pl. 129, figs. 53–54. Natal.

**Circe (Crista) divaricata** Chem.—Sowb., 'Thes. Conch.,' vol. ii., p. 250, pl. 137, figs. 8–9. Natal.

**Meroë contempta** Smith, 'Proc. Zool. Soc.' Natal.

**Cardium tenuicostatum** Lamarck.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Cardium*, pl. 10, fig. 50. Natal.

**Cardium rugosum** Lamarck.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Cardium*, pl. 14, fig. 68. Natal.

**Cardium rubicundum** Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Cardium*, pl. 9, fig. 44. Natal.

**Cardium papyraceum** Chemnitz.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Cardium*, pl. 2, fig. 9. Natal. A specimen in excellent condition, with epidermis in raised ridges on the ribs.

**Cardium turtoni** Sowb., n. sp.

*Testa sub-oblique orbiculata, æquivalvis, inæquilateralis, solidiuscula, parum inflata, albida, maculis fuscis diversiformibus*

*picta, radiatim costata; costis 26, planulatis, rotunde conspicue nodulosis; interstitiis angustis, transversim sulcatis; umbones prominentes; pagina interna alba, utrinque fusco tincta.*

*Antero-post. 12, umbono-marg. 12.*

*Hab. Port Elizabeth.*

This species is quoted by me—'Marine Shells of South Africa,' p. 61—as *C. fasciatum* from worn valves found at Port Elizabeth. Having now seen shells in better preservation (though still only odd valves) I am convinced of my error. The nodules are easily worn off, leaving the ribs smooth.

**Chama iostoma** Conrad.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Chama*, pl. 2, fig. 7. Natal.

**Lucina (Codakia) pecten** Lamarck.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. vi., *Lucina*, sp. 38. St. John's, Durban.

**Lucina (Divaricella) quadrisulcata** D'Orbigny = **Lucina eburnea** Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' vol. vi., *Lucina*, pl. 8, sp. 49. Natal. There are specimens in the British Museum from St. Helena. I have the same species from Hong-Kong.

**Loripes clausus** Philippi, 'Abbilæ und Beschr. Conch.,' vol. iii., *Lucina*, pl. 2, fig. 2. Natal. This is the shell quoted by me in 'Marine Shells of South Africa,' p. 61, as *Loripes lacteus*. There are specimens in the British Museum from Mozambique.

**Pinna saccata** Linn.—Reeve, 'Conch. Icon.,' *Pinna*, pl. 4, fig. 6. Natal.

**Anomia ephippium** Linn.—Sowb., 'Illust. Index of British Shells,' pl. 9, fig. 18. Natal.

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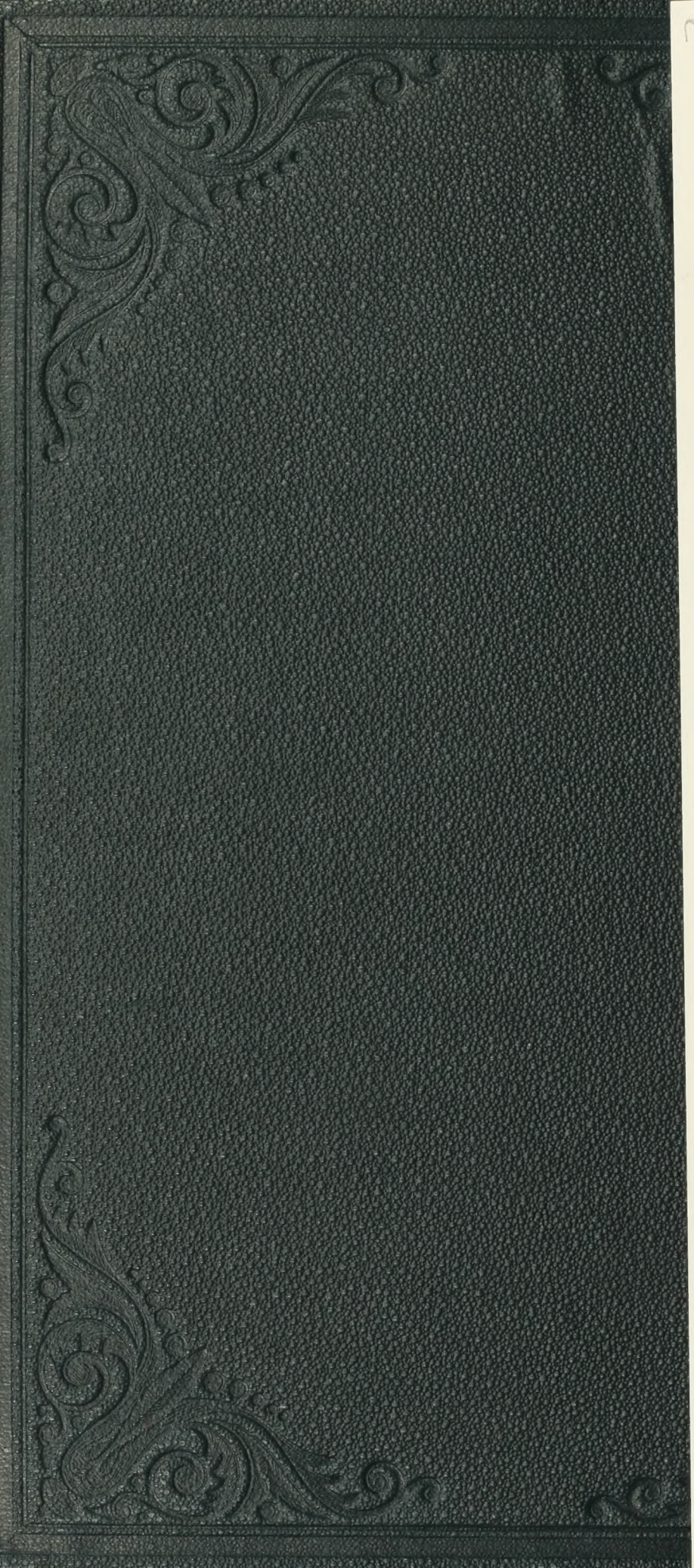
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